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Administration
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Water Pollution Control
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Mining Regulations & Reclamation
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Sulphur Springs Project, a facility utilizing physical separation methods to extract gold, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for new **Permit NEV2000105** is:

Black Gold Mining
Sulphur Springs Project
6100 Curry Road
Fallon, NV 89406

The facility, known as the Sulphur Springs Project is located within the Sulphur District (also known as the Rabbit Hole District) approximately 79 miles Northwest of Lovelock Nevada on the Southeast border of the Black Rock Desert approximately one mile southeast of Sulphur, in Township 34 North, Range 28 East, Section 5 MDB&M, Pershing County Nevada.

The project is a physical separation facility, pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.414. Application materials submitted by Black Gold Mining / L & H Claims, estimate a ten-year life expectancy for the Sulphur Springs Project. Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) **NEV2000105** only approves Phase 1 of the project. Additional permitting will be required prior to the commencement of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 activities.

In an effort to retain Small Mining Operation status for reclamation purposes, Phase 1 annual throughput and total surface disturbance will be limited to 36,500 tons of placer material and acres respectively. Phase 1 will utilize a wet gravity separation process

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(i.e. wash plant) consisting of a feed hopper, trommel screen, and cleaner jigs to recover gold from placer material excavated on site.

The process will generate a readily marketable coarse gold product and concentrates requiring additional beneficiation at an off site facility. Chemicals are not approved for use in the process and make-up water is recycled through the settling ponds for reuse.

The facility is designed and constructed to operate and close without any discharge or release from the fluid management system except metrological events that exceed the design storm limit.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue the new permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed permit renewal, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (October 23, 2003) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
Capitol Complex
Attn: Rob Kuczynski, P.E.
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Rob Kuczynski, P.E. at (775) 687-9441, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.html>.